

early January, indicates that cortical areas that used to get signals from the denervated arms seemed to have been getting signals from other parts of the body. Researchers want to replicate the experiment with the remaining monkeys.

MIT Pushes Minority Education

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has weighed in with a plan for reforming public education that makes minority education its top priority.

MIT's Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) project, a 2-year endeavor funded by the Carnegie Corporation, has produced a set of 58 recommendations to reduce the "glaring gap between minority and nonminority educational achievement" which "remains essentially unbridged" since school desegregation 35 years ago.*

The project was directed by Shirley McBay, MIT's dean for student affairs, and chaired by former labor secretary Ray Marshall, now at the University of Texas. "No major, national education reform effort to date... has focused on the educational needs of minorities," asserts McBay.

The proposals are based on a somewhat paradoxical concept—namely that "all children can excel." The report reiterates calls that are the stock in trade of every education report these days—such as for upgrading teachers, eliminating tracking, getting parents more involved, individualizing instruction, and establishing core competencies. But it also has a few more hard-nosed ideas. They include a requirement that every student do community service work in order to graduate from high school and lengthening of both school days and school years—plus a requirement for year-round schooling at least once

*The report, "Education That Works: An Action Plan for the Education of Minorities," can be obtained for the price of postage (\$2.40) from the QEM Project, MIT, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Room 26-157, Cambridge, MA 02139.

every 3 years.

The QEM project also favors putting additional pressure on colleges and universities. Among recommendations are that both faculty promotion decisions and institutional accreditation standards be linked to efforts to recruit minority students, faculty, and staff.

The next step will be a series of regional meetings throughout this year to discuss the report. The project will be sustained by a newly formed QEM Network which will have offices in Washington, D.C.

Animal Rightists Threaten Researcher

The Animal Liberation Front has taken credit for a 14 January break-in at the University of Pennsylvania office of Adrian Morrison, a sleep researcher

and veterinarian who has been outspoken in his defense of the use of animals in research. In addition to stealing files, slides, and data, ALF left a message threatening Morrison to "Stop defending what is not defensible, or you will get a taste of your own medicine." No animals were taken.

Morrison has incurred the enmity of animal rights activists for his defense of the use of animals in research, especially for his efforts on behalf of Edward Taub's work on the Silver Spring monkeys, as well as research on cats conducted by John Orem at Texas Tech. Morrison is chairman of the Society of Neuroscience committee on animals in research.

Frederick Goodwin, head of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration, said the break-in escalated the attacks by animal rights activ-

ists to a new level. Instead of protesting a specific research program, Goodwin said the action was directed at an individual for his views. That, said Goodwin, is "antithetical to the concept of social discourse." He vowed that the Department of Health and Human Services would in the future be taking a more active role in defending the use of animals in research.

Data Too Cheap to Meter

The age of the digital library is dawning. And the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics appears to be in the vanguard: at the recent Washington meeting of the American Astronomical Society, center astronomers were giving away free a set of three compact disks containing a complete catalog of images from the Einstein x-ray satellite that flew in the late '70s.

"It cost us \$2000 to master the disks," explains astronomer Daniel E. Harris of the center, which managed the Einstein project for NASA. But it only cost \$2 per disk for duplicates, so NASA, which funded the catalog, decided not to charge anything. About 300 sets were given away at the meeting.

The catalog project was begun 3 years ago in response to continuing requests for the 10-year-old data. Because no other x-ray observatory of comparable power has gone aloft since, x-ray astronomers have had to get very clever at extracting new insights from reanalyses of the existing data.

The decision to release the information on CDs was a natural, says Harris. "With your own software, or the software we can provide, you can look at an image, massage it, and put it together with radio and optical data in various ways."

The center is also thinking of releasing a printed version of the catalog for libraries. But that will require seven volumes and a total of 4000 pages.

Environmentalism Shakeup at State

The Bush Administration has removed the State Department's top two policy-makers on environmental issues, virtually on the eve of an international meeting in Washington D.C., on global warming.

Fred Bernthal, assistant secretary for the bureau of oceans and international environmental and scientific affairs, a hold-over from the Reagan Administration, was not reappointed

by President Bush. He is expected to leave the agency next month to replace John H. Moore as deputy director of the National Science Foundation. The Administration wants Curtis Bohlen, senior vice president of the World Wildlife Fund, to succeed Bernthal.

The other departure from State is that of William Nitze, deputy assistant secretary for environment, health, and natural resources, who was fired in mid-December. Nitze is looking for a job and hopes to remain active in environmental issues. No replacement has been announced.

Both Nitze and Bernthal have reportedly urged the Administration to take firmer action to address global warming. Nitze was a particularly strong advocate, which brought him in conflict with top Administration officials including White House chief of staff John Sununu.

The State Department has urged the President to address the upcoming United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to demonstrate U.S. leadership on climate change issues, but no decision has been made as yet. The meeting begins 5 February.



NSF's No. 2. Frederick M. Bernthal.

U.S. State Department